

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /079 W

----- 106741

R 151500Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1698

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS IZMIR 360

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ECEVIT ATTENDS RPP AEGEAN REGIONAL MEETING

1. REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) PRESIDENT BULENT ECEVIT FLEW NOV. 13 TO IZMIR EN ROUTE TO NOV. 14 REGIONAL RPP MEETING AT AYDIN TO DISCUSS PROPOSED NEW PARTY BYLAWS. LOCAL RPP ORGANIZATION LAID ON VERY LARGE, ENTHUSIASTIC AUTO CAVALCADE TO ESCORT ECEVIT FROM AIRPORT TO IZMIR HOTEL AND FOLLOWING DAY TO AYDIN. AT AYDIN HE DELIVERED LONG ADDRESS (SEE BELOW FOR EXCERPTS) BEFORE GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC CROWD PLAUSIBLY ESTIMATED AT "TENS OF THOUSANDS" BY NON-RPP AFFILIATED PRESS. (EVEN ALLOWING FOR CURIOSITY-SEEKERS, TURNOUT APPEARS REMARK-

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ABLE FOR ESSENTIALLY NON-RPP CITY AND PROVINCE, PER PAST ELECTIONS.) FOLLOWING IS OPEN-AIR SPEECH, ECEVIT JOINED THE CLOSED PARTY MEETING, FROM WHICH NO INDICATION OF NATURE OR INTENSITY OF DEBATE HAS YET LEAKED. ECEVIT RETURNED SAME EVENING (AS SCHEDULED) TO IZMIR HOTEL, BUT HAS SINCE POSTPONED SCHEDULED EARLY MORNING NOV. 15 DEPARTURE. SPECULATION HAS IT THAT ECEVIT IS SEEKING RECONCILE CONTENDING IZMIR PARTY FACTIONS.

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2. ACCORDING PUBLISHED EXCERPTS AND PRESS COMMENT ECEVIT'S

TWO HOURS LONG AYDIN PUBLIC SPEECH DEVOTED TO VIGOROUS ATTACK ON DEMIREL ADMINISTRATION WITH WHAT PRESS SUGGESTED REGARDED WAS OVERTURE TO ERBAKAN (APPARENTLY NOT IN WHAT WAS SAID, BUT BECAUSE OF ECEVIT'S OMISSION OF CRITICISM OF ERBAKAN). ECEVIT SOUGHT TO DEPICT DEMIREL AND HIS ADMINISTRATION AS REPRESENTING "EXPLOITERS" AND "PROFITEERS", WHILE RPP REPRESENTED THE "FARMERS, WORKERS, AND VILLAGERS". HE PROMISED THAT IN 1977 A NEWLY ELECTED RPP ADMINISTRATION WOULD "LIBERATE" VILLAGE COOPERATIVE UNIONS FROM THE "COMMANDOS", WHO HE CLAIMED ENJOYED GOVT SUPPORT; THESE COOPS WILL ESTABLISH THEIR OWN BANKS FOR VILLAGE CREDIT, IMPORT THEIR OWN TRACTORS, AND COM-

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MODIFY PRODUCERS WOULD GET THEIR FAIR SHARE. SOCIAL SECURITY ("LABOR INSURANCE") WOULD BE EXTENDED TO ALL FARMERS AND VILLAGERS. REFERRING TO A DISPUTE OVER ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS TO TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHOOLS, ECEVIT CALLED ON DEMIREL TO FIRE THE RIGHT-WING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AYVAZ GOKDEMIR, WHO ALLEGEDLY RECENTLY REFUSED TO EXECUTE THE JP MINISTER OF EDUCATION'S ORDER TO MODIFY AND RESCHEDULE THESE EXAMS. DEFENDING THE RPP FROM CHARGES THAT PRESENT UNREST IS CAUSED BY BENEFICIARIES OF ECEVIT'S 1974 GENERAL AMNESTY, IN PATENT ALLUSION TO NAP PRESIDENT TURKES, ECEVIT CHARGED "MURDERS" BEING PERPETRATED BY PERSONS WHOSE "HEAD IS IN THE GOVERNMENT", THIS "FRANKENSTEIN CREATED BY DEMIREL WILL DEVOUR HIM AND THE GOVT." (AMEMBASSY ANKARA REPORTING SEPTTEL PORTION OF ECEVIT REMARKS THREATENING REFUSAL HONOR ANY DEMIREL "SECRET AGREEMENTS" ON THE AEGEAN.)

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, PARTY MEETINGS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976IZMIR00360
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760426-0242
From: IZMIR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761149/aaaabpuc.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2004 by vandyklc>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECEVIT ATTENDS RPP AEGEAN REGIONAL MEETING
TAGS: PINT, TU, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006